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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/585,458	07/07/2006	Masamichi Nogami	292345US2PCT	5951
22850	7590	12/24/2008		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER				
TRAN, DZUNG D				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2613				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
12/24/2008		ELECTRONIC		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/585,458

**Applicant(s)**

NOGAMI ET AL.

**Examiner**

Dzung D. Tran

**Art Unit**

2613

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7-9 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SG/US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Specification***

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kogure et al. US Publication no. 2001/0019441 in view of Takeyari US Patent no. 5,844,445.

Regarding claims 6 and 10, Kogure discloses in Figures 3, 5, 11, a method/apparatus of an optical receiver comprising:

a pre-amplifying unit 2 that performs voltage conversion and amplification of an output of a light-receiving element that receives a light signal and converts the received light signal into a current signal; and

a regenerating unit (i.e., a circuit after the Pre-amplifier 2) including a discriminating circuit 9 that receives an output signal of the pre-amplifying unit 2 as an input signal and performs a signal discrimination of the input signal based on a threshold generated based on the input signal, wherein the regenerating unit further includes a second average detecting circuit that detects an average of input signals to the discriminating circuit, and the discriminating circuit receives an output of the second

average detecting circuit as the threshold for signal discrimination of the input signal (Figure 5, 11; paragraphs 0073-0076).

Kogure does not specifically disclose wherein the pre-amplifying unit includes a first average detecting circuit that detects an average of output signals of the pre-amplifying unit, and controls an amplification gain based on a result of comparison between an output of the first average detecting circuit and a predetermined reference voltage.

Takeyari discloses a feedback type Pre-amplifier in an optical receiver wherein the pre-amplifying unit includes a first average detecting circuit that detects an average of output signals of the pre-amplifying unit, and controls an amplification gain based on a result of comparison between an output of the first average detecting circuit and a predetermined reference voltage (Figure 5; col. 5, lines 33-65).

At the time of the invention was made, it would have been obvious to an artisan to replace the Pre-amplifier 2 of Kogure with the Pre-amplifier taught by Takeyari. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do that in order for the Pre-amplifier operates as an ordinary high transfer impedance low noise Pre-amplifier (col. 5, lines 60-62 of Takeyari).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 7-9 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Ide U.S. Patent no. 6,169,619. Apparatus and method for reception of Optical signal

b. Ide U.S. Publication no. 2002/0153958. Signal amplifier and optical signal receiver

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dzung D Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3025. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (571) 272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

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applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dzung Tran

12/11/2008

/Dzung D Tran/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2613